

# Hurricane Harvey EPA Response

## Daily News Clips

9/7/17

3:30 pm

### **1 – Aerial spray for Hurricane Harvey relief**

<http://www.youngstown.afrc.af.mil/News/Article-Display/Article/1301910/aerial-spray-for-hurricane-harvey-relief/>

The Air Force Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing has been tasked with providing its unique aerial spray capability to assist with recovery efforts in eastern Texas, following the devastation of Hurricane Harvey.

The 910th Airlift Wing operates the Department of Defense's only aerial spray capability to control pest insect populations, eliminate undesired and invasive vegetation and disperse oil spills in large bodies of water. Due to large amounts of standing, polluted water, populations of pest insects that can transmit diseases are increasing significantly, posing a health risk to rescue workers and residents of Houston. Authorities have requested the 910th Airlift Wing to potentially treat more than six million affected acres.

### **2 – (UPDATED) Government ill-equipped to monitor industrial plants damaged by Hurricane Harvey**

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/news/houston-texas/houston/article/Government-ill-equipped-to-monitor-industrial-12178805.php>

More than a dozen Texas chemical and refining plants reported damaged storage tanks, ruptured containment systems and malfunctioning pressure relief valves as a result of Hurricane Harvey, portending safety problems that might not become apparent for months or years, according to a Houston Chronicle review of regulatory filings. The filings are incomplete and represent only damage that produced excessive air pollution, a fraction of the impact on plants in southeast Texas that provide more than 40 percent of the nation's petrochemical capacity and about 30 percent of its refining.

### **3 – First responders sue Arkema for \$1 million following explosions at Crosby plant**

<http://www.chron.com/news/article/First-responders-sue-Arkema-for-1-million-12180324.php>

Seven first responders injured after explosions at the troubled Arkema chemical plant in Crosby are now suing the company for at least \$1 million. On Thursday, barely a week after the first blast of decomposing chemicals rocked the small town, Houston lawyers Kimberley Spurlock and Misty Hataway-Cone launched a legal battle in Harris County court, accusing Arkema of gross negligence.

### **4 – City parks also damaged in flooding**

[http://baytownsun.com/news/article\\_d580538e-93b4-11e7-88cf-6341afcead9.html](http://baytownsun.com/news/article_d580538e-93b4-11e7-88cf-6341afcead9.html)

As residents continue to deal with recovery efforts in the aftermath of Harvey, so does the Baytown Parks and Recreation Department. Roseland Park was the hardest hit park in the city and had water up to the tops of palm trees. After the water receded, silt was the biggest issue facing city staff. "Half of the park is covered in two feet of silt," Park Superintendent. People return to building after gas smell reported. Dustin Schubert told the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Wednesday. "And someone's dock washed up."

### **5 - People return to building after gas smell reported**

# Hurricane Harvey EPA Response

## Daily News Clips

<https://www.victoriaadvocate.com/news/2017/sep/07/building-evacuated-after-gas-smell-reported/>

The building has been cleared and people are back in. Pilot lights are being worked on. The top floors of One O'Connor Plaza were evacuated Thursday due to a gas leak on the 12th floor, Victoria Fire Department officials said. The Victoria Fire Department responded to a call just after 1 p.m. In regards to a gas odor around the top floor of the building, where The Sendera restaurant is located, said Victoria Fire Department battalion chief Jeff Cowan.

### **6 - FEMA looks to buy out homes flooded by Hurricane Harvey**

<http://www.houstonchronicle.com/business/article/FEMA-looks-to-buyout-homes-flooded-by-Hurricane-12180372.php>

The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it is working to accelerate buyouts of repeatedly flooded properties following Hurricane Harvey in hopes of helping Houstonians escape perennially soggy neighborhoods and keeping the federal government from paying to rebuild homes time and time again.

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## Aerial spray for Hurricane Harvey relief

By Eric White, 910th Airlift Wing Public Affairs / Published September 07, 2017



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A Youngstown C-130H Hercules aircraft, modified for the Department of Defense's only aerial spray mission, demonstrates its capability by flying low and spraying water through a Modular Aerial Spray System used only for training during the annual aerial spray course here, May 10, 2017. This flight simulates a pesticide mission which can eliminate pest or disease-carrying insects to protect Service members. (U.S. Air Force photo/Master Sgt. Bob Barko Jr.)

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### YOUNGSTOWN AIR RESERVE STATION, Ohio --

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Four Air Force Reserve C-130H Hercules aircraft assigned to the 757th Airlift Squadron here, and nearly 70 Reserve Citizen Airmen are scheduled to fly to Lackland Air Force Base, Texas this Friday to begin aerial spray applications in coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Centers for Disease Control.

On any given day, nearly 6,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen are serving on active duty worldwide in support of combatant commanders and other agencies and major commands.

This mission will primarily target mosquitoes which are capable of transmitting diseases such as malaria, West Nile virus, Zika and various types of encephalitis. Increased populations of these pest insects can eventually lead to individual cases or widespread outbreak of these diseases. The pest insects can also hinder recovery workers, resulting in less time in the field.

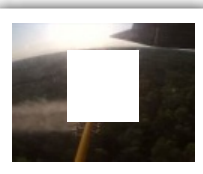
With recent training and capability enhancements, the aerial spray flight is now able to operate throughout the night using night vision goggles. This new capability increases the flight's best case spray capacity from approximately 60 thousand acres per day to approximately 190 thousand acres per day. Spray missions are normally conducted at dusk and nighttime

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hours when pest insects are most active.

The 910th's customized Modular Aerial Spray System is capable of a wide-variety of applications. For mosquito control, the system uses the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved and regulated material naled, which is not used in amounts large enough to cause any concern for human health, according to the EPA. The system disperses droplets small enough to land on a mosquito's wing, using less than one ounce of naled per acre. That's less than one shot glass for an area the size of a football field.

In 2008, the 910th Airlift Wing supported FEMA by treating 2,880,662 acres over Louisiana and Texas to eliminate mosquitoes in the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. That effort was the largest aerial spray mission ever conducted under Air Force Reserve Command. This new tasking for Hurricane Harvey recovery efforts is expected to significantly surpass previous missions in scope.

The Air Force Reserve is comprised of nearly 70,000 Reserve Citizen Airmen and will continue to innovate new ways in vital areas of defense to protect the United States.

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## City parks also damaged in flooding

Posted: Thursday, September 7, 2017 12:00 am

By Christopher James christopher.james@baytownsun.com |

As residents continue to deal with recovery efforts in the aftermath of Harvey, so does the Baytown Parks and Recreation Department.

Roseland Park was the hardest hit park in the city and had water up to the tops of palm trees. After the water receded, silt was the biggest issue facing city staff.

“Half of the park is covered in two feet of silt,” Park Superintendent Dustin Schubert told the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Wednesday. “And someone’s dock washed up.”

The Parks and Recreation Department says it may be a few weeks before the park opens up again.

In addition to silt covering the park, the Roseland Pavilion took on water and waterline reached halfway up the structure.

“This is the third or fourth time its been flooded out completely so it can’t take on a lot more,” said Schubert. “So we’re going to see what they tell us after inspections.”

Harvey did not spare Pirates Bay either, as the pump room that controls the back half of the lazy river and body slide was flooded out.

“The water was about chest high,” said Aquatics Director Mike Flinn. “We lost six motors and all the electrical. But we finally got the motors back and electrical is being ordered.”

Pirates Bay is now closed for the season.

Out at the Nature Center, most of the area was flooded much like Roseland Park, which left mostly sand behind. In addition, two fishing piers were damaged.

“These were the three big ones — Pirates Bay, Nature Center and Roseland,” said Schubert. “Also we had many other playgrounds that mulch floated away because we got so much rain. So we’re going to be adding mulch to a bunch of different parks — just a lot of miscellaneous stuff.”

“But we weren’t hit as bad as we were during (Hurricane) Ike,” he added. “Most of it was flooding and not the winds.”

In terms of the Wetlands Center, less than a foot of water came in, which required minimal cleanup.

However, city engineering will inspect the Wetlands Center for any roof leaks or structural damage.



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# southern newspapers



# People return to building after gas smell reported



By [Amber Aldaco](#)

Sept. 7, 2017 at 1:55 p.m.

Updated Sept. 7, 2017 at 2:52 p.m.



A gas leak was reported at One O'Connor Plaza. [Angela Piazza/apiazza@vicad.com](mailto:apiazza@vicad.com) for The Victoria Advocate

Updated at 2:24 p.m.



VICTORIA ADVOCATE



The building has been cleared and people are back in. Pilot lights are being worked on.

The top floors of One O'Connor Plaza were evacuated Thursday due to a gas leak on the 12th floor, Victoria Fire Department officials said.

The Victoria Fire Department responded to a call just after 1 p.m. In regards to a gas odor around the top floor of the building, where The Sendera restaurant is located, said Victoria Fire Department battalion chief Jeff Cowan.

The pilot lights in the restaurant were out but the gas was still on, Cowan said. The building was initially evacuated in order for firefighters to assess the building to make sure there were no immediate health hazards, he added.

The main gas meter has been shut off until the leak can be fixed.

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## Comments

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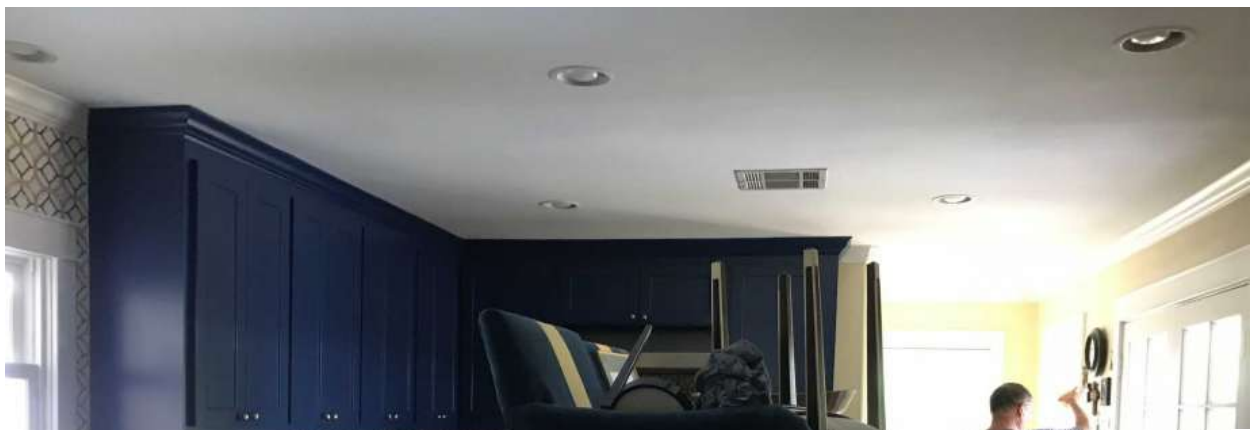
## Durham, NC: This Brilliant Company Is Disrupting A \$200 Billion Industry



# FEMA looks to buy out homes flooded by Hurricane Harvey

By David Hunn | September 7, 2017 | Updated: September 7, 2017 2:25pm

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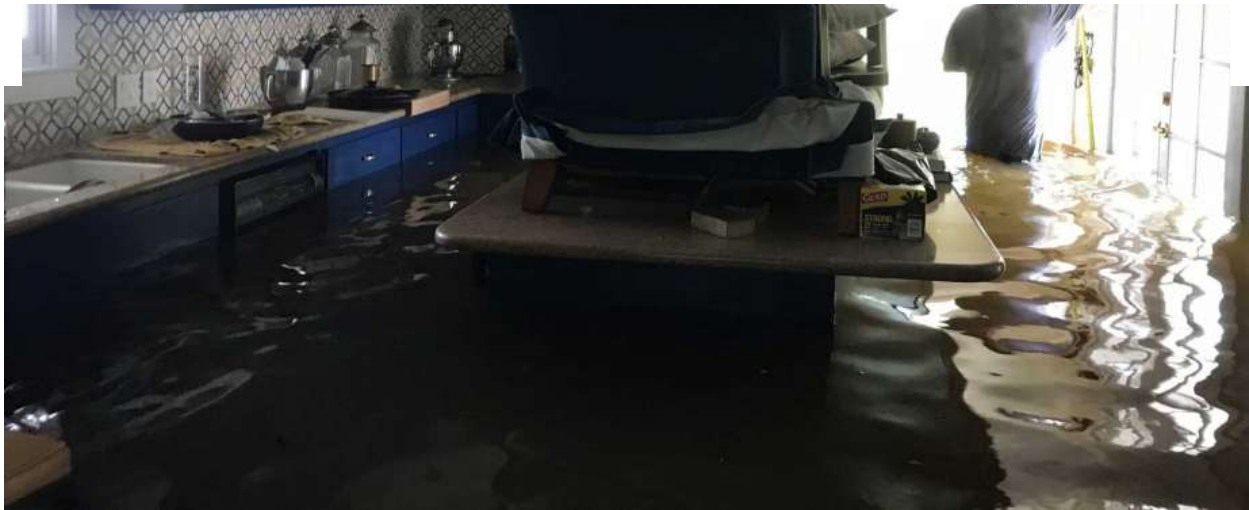


Photo: Courtesy Of Janus Lazaris

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**IMAGE 1 OF 23**

The Meyerland home of Janus and John Lazaris flooded during Tropical Storm Harvey.

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The Federal Emergency Management Agency said it is working to accelerate buyouts of repeatedly flooded properties following Hurricane Harvey in hopes of helping Houstonians escape perennially soggy neighborhoods and keeping the federal government from paying to rebuild homes over and over again.

It's unclear how many homes in Houston might be affected by the buyout plan. Roy Wright, the FEMA official who runs the National Flood Insurance Program, declined to provide details.

"I've got to make sure I can make the program work," Wright said in an interview on Thursday. "I've got folks working right now."

### The Breakdown - FEMA funds for Harvey relief

FOX 26 News anchor Kaitlin Monte





FOX 26 News anchor Kaitlin Monte

Media: KRIV

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FEMA is receiving thousands of Harvey claims and paying out millions of dollars every day. By the end of Wednesday, more than 80,000 Texans had filed claims and FEMA had issued about \$76 million in advance payments.

"And we're not done yet," said Wright.

Of the 1.1 million residential structures in Harris County, only one in five, or about 230,000, have national flood insurance. Of the county's 130,000 residential buildings in "high hazard" areas — those in the so-called 100-year floodplains -- less than half, or about 55,000, are covered, despite requirements for such insurance.

Wright said the buy-out acceleration was spurred, at least in part, by a Houston homeowner who called his office late one evening last week. The homeowner, whom he did not identify, had returned to her home after the Harvey flood and called to ask for a buyout.

FEMA has a buyout program now. But it typically wouldn't kick in for a couple years, Wright said. He wants homeowners to be able to consider buyouts instead of rebuilding.

#### **TRANSLATOR**

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#### **BUSINESS**



**FEMA looks to buy out homes flooded by Hurricane Harvey**



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“On these multiple loss properties, I’m working with my team and lawyers on ways I can move that to the front,” he said. “The point is, I’m not going to make someone redo their house, then re-buy it.”

Harris County has already bought out more homeowners than any county in the country, Wright said, spending \$225 million in purchases over the last 20 years.

Local officials are urging Wright to move quickly now, he said.

Wright said his department should figure out if such a program could work, and how, in the next couple of weeks.

## David Hunn

Enterprise energy reporter

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